



# NAEP 2010 • Grades 4 and 8 In Your School

## What is NAEP?

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** is an essential measurement of student achievement in America.

- ▶ NAEP is the only *nationally representative assessment* of what American students know and can do in core subjects such as civics, mathematics, reading, science, U.S. history, and writing.
- ▶ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students across the country.
- ▶ NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its impeccable technical quality. The assessment frameworks are developed with input from assessment specialists, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the nation.
- ▶ NAEP monitors student progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally. In some subjects and grades, results are also available for states and selected urban districts.

NAEP will be administered to a sample of students in your school between January 25 and March 5, 2010. Students will be assessed in civics, geography, or U.S. history.

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A national pilot test in writing will also be administered. At grade 4, the writing assessment will be paper and pencil; at grade 8, it will be computer-based. NAEP will also conduct a special study in mathematics.

This fact sheet will help prepare your school and students for participation.

## What is involved?

A staff person in your school will need to be assigned to serve as the school coordinator. The school coordinator and the principal will work with the NAEP staff who are responsible for conducting the assessment.

Students will spend about 90 minutes completing the assessment, including answering questions in one subject area and answering questions about themselves and their educational experiences. Up to an additional 30 minutes of time may be necessary for grade 8 students participating in the computer-based writing pilot. The school principal and the teachers of the subjects being assessed will also complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to gather information about school characteristics and types of educational experiences that may be related to performance, such as the amount of homework given to students, reading habits, and teacher experience.

Additional information will be collected about how selected students with disabilities and English language learners will participate in the assessment.



For more information about NAEP, visit:  
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

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## How many students are assessed?

Nationally, more than 30,000 students at each grade will be assessed to represent the nation. In most grade 4 schools, up to 170 students will be assessed. In most grade 8 schools, the sample will be up to 110 students. In schools participating in the computer-based writing pilot, 30 students will be selected.

## What are the responsibilities of the NAEP State Coordinator and NAEP staff?

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your department of education office and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ Providing schools with instructions for preparing an electronic file of grade-eligible students (if required) and information about notifying parents of participating students; and
- ▶ Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

NAEP staff members are employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of grade-eligible students;
- ▶ Sending a Preassessment Packet of information to the school coordinator in early January;
- ▶ Visiting the school coordinator shortly after the Preassessment Packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements;
- ▶ Bringing all assessment materials, including laptop computers for the writing pilot, to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ Conducting the assessments.

## What are the principal's and school coordinator's responsibilities?

Each principal will be responsible for:

- ▶ Assigning a school coordinator to serve as the primary contact for the NAEP assessment;
- ▶ Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ▶ Empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP staff and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ Informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ▶ Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the assessment date is convenient for the school;
- ▶ Providing NAEP with an electronic file of grade-eligible students, if requested; and
- ▶ Informing parents of the assessment. The NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished.

Before the assessment date, the school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ▶ Receiving the Preassessment Packet and making final preparations for the assessment;
- ▶ Meeting with the NAEP staff during the scheduled preassessment visit; and
- ▶ Ensuring that there is a plan with school staff to achieve high participation of students at the assessment.

Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent in the fall.